IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please CANCEL claims 1-2; 5-6; and 11-15; AMEND claims 3-4; and 7-10; and ADD new claims 16-18 in accordance with the following:

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~<u>claim 16</u>, further comprising a change notifying unit <u>notifying the second subscriber of the change of the first telephone number.</u> ~~sending a change notification to a registrant whose telephone directory information has been modified by said telephone number changing means.~~

4.   (Currently Amended) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~<u>claim 16</u>, further comprising a change confirming unit ~~confirming in advance with respect to the number changer~~<u>that asks the first subscriber</u> whether or not the <u>second backup copy</u> ~~telephone directory information~~ needs to be modified, ~~prior to modification of the telephone directory information~~<u>before the telephone number changing unit changes the first telephone number in the second backup copy</u>.

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently Amended) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~<u>claim 16</u>, wherein said telephone number change notification instruction is an instruction from the ~~number changer~~<u>first subscriber</u>.

8.   (Currently Amended) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~claim 16, wherein said telephone number change notification instruction is an instruction from a portable telephone service provider.

9.   (Currently Amended) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to claim 8, ~~further comprising a~~ the telephone number changing unit ~~that~~ further changes the first telephone number in the first backup copy to the third ~~telephone directory information of the number changer to a new~~ telephone number in response to the telephone number change notification instruction from the portable telephone service provider.

10.   (Currently Amended) The telephone directory information modifying apparatus according to ~~claim 1~~claim 16, further comprising a telephone number difference reflecting unit ~~causing a~~ sending telephone number difference information to the second subscriber ~~in the telephone directory information of a registrant with respect to whom the telephone number of the number changer has been changed~~so as to cause the change of the first telephone number, to be reflected in a telephone directory of the ~~registrant's~~ second subscriber's portable telephone.

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Cancelled)

14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (New) An apparatus disposed in a data center managing a telephone network, the apparatus comprising:
        a storage unit storing a first backup copy of telephone directory information received from a first subscriber having a first telephone number, as well as a second backup copy of telephone directory information received from a second subscriber having a second telephone number;

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a first searching unit, responsive to a telephone number change notification instruction requesting a change of the first telephone number to a third telephone number, searching the first backup copy to find that the second telephone number is registered therein;

a second searching unit, responsive to detection of the second telephone number in the first backup copy, searching the second backup copy to determine whether the first telephone number is registered therein; and

a telephone number changing unit, responsive to detection of the first telephone number in the second backup copy, changing the first telephone number in the second backup copy to the third telephone number.

17.   (New) A method implemented in a data center managing a telephone network, comprising:

storing a first backup copy of telephone directory information received from a first subscriber having a first telephone number, as well as a second backup copy of telephone directory information received from a second subscriber having a second telephone number;

responsive to a telephone number change notification instruction requesting a change of the first telephone number to a third telephone number, searching the first backup copy to find that the second telephone number is registered therein;

responsive to detection of the second telephone number in the first backup copy, searching the second backup copy to determine whether the first telephone number is registered therein; and

responsive to detection of the first telephone number in the second backup copy, changing the first telephone number in the second backup copy to the third telephone number.

18.   (New) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for execution on a computer disposed in a data center managing a telephone network, the program causing the computer to function as:

a storage unit storing a first backup copy of telephone directory information received from a first subscriber having a first telephone number, as well as a second backup copy of telephone directory information received from a second subscriber having a second telephone number;

a first searching unit, responsive to a telephone number change notification instruction requesting a change of the first telephone number to a third telephone number, searching the first backup copy to find that the second telephone number is registered therein;

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a second searching unit, responsive to detection of the second telephone number in the first backup copy, searching the second backup copy to determine whether the first telephone number is registered therein; and

a telephone number changing unit, responsive to detection of the first telephone number in the second backup copy, changing the first telephone number in the second backup copy to the third telephone number.